SUBJECTS.

therefore that Government might order the construction of branch kals from the Thiruvankode Channel to irrigate the lands at those places and thus avert famine and drought to which they were constantly exposed. The branch kals, if cut, would not only irrigate existing lands but also serve to bring new lands under cultivation. The Member also prayed that the cutting of the Amaravathi branch, which had been sanctioned, might be carried out.

Dewan's reply.—I have to repeat the answer I gave to the Eraniel Member last year, that any further extension of the Thiruvancode Channel is out of the question. The Thiruvancode Main Channel is not in an efficient condition, and it would be a mistake to increase the number of its branches, as proposed by the Member. Government are anxious to bring the Kodayar works to a close. They cannot allow those works to be spun out indefinitely.

124. Early construction of sluices in the Eraniel Channel.

Mr. C. Raman Tampi (Member, Eraniel Taluk) stated that nearly 300 acres of land had been converted into fields in accordance with the G. O. regarding the water-cess. But recently, the ryots who were thus converting the dry lands into fields, expecting water from the Thiruvancode and Eraniel kals, were prevented from doing so by a Gazette Notification. According to this Notification, the sluices that had been provided some time back for the supply of water to these converted fields were removed. The Member represented that the ryots were put to much hardship and loss by the sudden removal of the sluices. Therefore, the Member prayed either for the early construction of sluices in the Eraniel Channel for feeding the converted lands, as those already supplied had been removed, or the taxes according to the settlement rate might be abolished till permanent sluices were provided.

Dewan's reply.—The ryots will have to make their own branch canals. The D. P. W. will give them the sluices. The construction of sluices and the development of irrigation should ordinarily proceed from the higher to the lower reaches.

KALKULAM TALUK.

125. Prevention of the submergence of the paddy lands bordering on the Pamburivaikal.

Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) represented that the paddy lands bordering on the channel were subject to much damage by being submerged. The Member prayed that the silt which had accumulated in the channel might be removed to prevent the submergence of the paddy lands bordering on the channel.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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